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# **international review of the red cross**



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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
FOUNDED IN 1863**

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of the Red Cross Societies and the 131 recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross.

An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.

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- recording the international activities of the Red Cross, mainly for reference purpose, as a chronicle of events,

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*The International Committee of the Red Cross assumes responsibility  
only for material over its own signature.*

# The ICRC and the Future:

*Five major challenges of the year 2000 for an organization  
in its second century*<sup>1</sup>

by Jacques Moreillon

**1) On some simple truths by way of introduction to arouse the interest  
of the reader**

— The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as an organization, has no rights of its own; the only ones it exercises are those of the silent victims in whose name it speaks.

— Were it not the defender of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, of which it is the guardian, the ICRC would be just one more voluntary agency, with a small budget.

— International humanitarian law protects only those victims whom governments allow to be protected, but its principles can and must be invoked, even when this law cannot be applied.

— The ICRC's main assets are the men and women working for it; preserving and managing this capital is one of its most important and difficult tasks.

— The hardening of political, economic and ideological antagonisms will be one of the characteristics of the years to come and one of the main obstacles which the ICRC will have to face.

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<sup>1</sup> This article is the outcome of discussions with various members and collaborators of the ICRC, combined with personal reflection. It is not binding in any way for the ICRC. It was first published in the *Annals* of the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, 1982.

— In order to really help those whom it is commissioned to protect and assist, the ICRC is condemned to remain mononational; from which follows an even greater obligation to find an opening onto the world and, more difficult still, win acceptance by it.

**2) A reminder of some facts and laws for setting the scene—the initiated can jump to paragraph 3**

— The ICRC is the founding organ of the Red Cross movement (1863). It is a private, independent, neutral, impartial, Swiss organization, whose object is to protect and assist the civilian and military victims of armed conflicts, international or otherwise, and of internal disorders or tension.

— The ICRC was at the origin of modern international humanitarian law (1864). The main purpose of this law is to guarantee respect for the human person in armed conflict. It is made up of the “law of Geneva” for the protection of soldiers *hors de combat* and of all persons not taking part in the hostilities—and the “law of The Hague”, which sets forth the rights and duties of belligerents in conducting military operations and limits the choice of means of doing harm.

— The 1949 Geneva Conventions oblige the States parties to them (154, as at 30 June 1983) to allow the ICRC to visit prisoners of war and civilian internees and talk to them without witnesses, in the event of international conflicts. They authorize it to offer its services during civil wars, but do not oblige the parties to such conflicts to accept this offer.

— The Statutes of the International Red Cross (the first version was adopted in 1928) authorize the ICRC to offer its services on behalf of the victims of internal disorders and other situations requiring the humanitarian intervention of a neutral intermediary. Since 1919, but mainly since 1945, the ICRC has visited over 300,000 “political detainees” in some 80 countries.

— There were, as of 30 June 1983, 130 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the world, duly recognized by the ICRC. Since 1919, they belong to a federation, the League of Red Cross Societies, a plurinational organization responsible mainly for the development of its present and future member societies and for coordinating relief operations in the event of natural disasters.

— The National Societies, the League and the ICRC together form the International Red Cross. They meet every two years in the Council of

Delegates. Add to them the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions and you have the International Red Cross Conference, the highest deliberative authority of the movement, which meets every four years and whose mission is to ensure the unity of action of its members. The Statutes of the International Red Cross have been adopted by the International Conference.

### **3) Where we reach the heart of the matter: some thoughts on the ICRC's mononationality**

From the foundation of the ICRC by five Geneva citizens in 1863, all Committee members have been Swiss, a factual situation which was given legal sanction by the International Red Cross Statutes adopted in 1928. Under Swiss law, Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC is an association just like any bowling or yodelling club. And it is to this club, whose members are recruited by co-option and can all be qualified as direct "descendants" of the five founders, that the community of States has entrusted the guardianship of the Geneva Conventions.

It must be agreed that in a "representative" world, extolling the equality and sovereignty of States, this is an unusual situation! How then do we explain that these same States agree to it and that none of them proposes to internationalize the ICRC?

To reply to this question, we must imagine what would happen if the ICRC were in fact multinational. How would it make up a delegation to visit the "Fedayins" in Israeli prisons? Would it be the same delegation as the one going to see the Israeli pilots held by the Syrians? Which nationalities would have been equally acceptable to the government of Lagos and the secessionists in the Nigerian civil war? Would South Africa, Argentina or Poland in a state of martial law accept delegates from such an organization?

How would this organization make decisions? With what majority? By what criteria would it decide to offer its services? Confronted by the humanitarian emergency of a conflict suddenly breaking out, as in Cyprus in 1974 or, more recently, between Iraq and Iran, how long would it need to take the necessary decisions?

Finally, how could such an organization really guarantee the confidentiality required of its office? Admitted into camps and prisons, where its delegates interview captives without witnesses, how could it prove that their reports would not be "leaked" to the secret services of their respective governments or "friendly" nations?

“Why not take other neutrals?” some will perhaps say, “and mix Austrians and Swedes with these Swiss.”

“Agreed ! But, then, why not some Yugoslavs ? They are just as “neutral” among the Socialist countries as Switzerland in the capitalist world”.

“All right, bring in Yugoslavia. But why confine it to Europe ? Burundi is a small country not threatening anyone, and the same with Burma. As for Ecuador and Peru, the fact that they belong to the Andean Pact does not make them any less neutral.”

It is obvious that there is no middle course between uninationality and universality. Yet what States require first and foremost of the ICRC is independence, i.e. the ability to make decisions as a completely neutral entity (neutral = *ne utrum* = neither the one, nor the other), to act without discrimination, by bringing relief to victims according to their needs and not their allegiance—decisions which must be taken and acted upon quickly, discreetly and efficiently.

And this independence is guaranteed by a triple device:

- mononationality,
- co-option,
- the Swiss character.

And this is the *first challenge* set by the future for the ICRC; forced to remain Swiss, it must make a correspondingly greater effort to understand, and be accepted by all that is not Swiss. If we take an extreme view of this requirement, it amounts to a veritable “internationalization of the spirit”. Of course, this does not mean abandoning Swiss virtues nor repudiating the values of the civilization in which the Red Cross was born, but rather, through deepening our knowledge and making a systematic effort at empathy, we should really come to know how to put ourselves in the place of others and understand the human and political motives of their actions, the roots of their reflexes and the special quality of their sensitivity. Acceptance by others is won through their understanding. How, otherwise, can you make others forget your colour or your passport when either the one or the other, or even both, embarrass them *a priori* ? A member of the ICRC must, therefore, just like a delegate, rise above his original mental structures whenever necessary, in order to strive for true humanitarian universality, which is that of identifying with the human suffering to which he must bring relief.



#### 4) On the exaggerated hardening of ideologies and its (in)humanitarian consequences

At the inaugural session of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference, in Manila, in November 1981, Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, stated:

*"At a time when the means for fighting an enemy, an ideology, a belief, have been frighteningly developed, terrorism, the taking of hostages and torture are destructive mechanisms from which more and more victims have to be saved.*

*"I would be falling short of my duty if I did not take advantage of this occasion to tell you about the concern of the ICRC in the face of these developments. The increase of violence perpetrated indiscriminately, the constant violation of basic humanitarian principles, are assuming agonizing proportions, especially in conflicts involving ideologies or race prejudice—whether restricted to one country or international—where the struggle has all the horror of total war. Just as the attempt was made, in the past, to annihilate human beings because they belonged to a certain race or a certain people, so today, a man who thinks differently seems to lose his status as a member of the human family. He becomes an "outsider", and the principle, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", no longer applies to him or to his next of kin, because ideological blindness keeps us from being able to recognize human character in him. This is the source of all terrorism: State terrorism which leads to attacking civilian populations, to the secret "elimination" of opponents, to their summary execution or their torture in prisons; group or even individual terrorism which strikes out blindly at anything within reach, women and children, natives and foreigners alike, who may have any connection, no matter how tenuous, with the enemy.*

*"In both cases, any pretext is put forward to justify these unjustifiable actions: military imperatives, State security, and the last means resorted to by oppressed peoples. In all such cases the ICRC is aware of one element: contempt for the human race and violation of the fundamental rule of humanitarian law, that is respect for the non-combatant. What shreds of humanity can be left if our ideologies keep us from seeing the human being in our defenceless enemy, and even deform our vision so that we see an enemy in the innocent?*

*"We are making an appeal to governments and to individuals, to those who hold power and to those who are fighting to gain this same power: while waiting for the real peace that we all hope for, we ask them that, in their conflicts, they spare the little enclaves of humanity before they*

*are crushed in the machinery of violence that knows no limits. That is the message of Henry Dunant, and that is also expressed in the many humanitarian traditions of the various civilizations of our globe—those of the past, like those of the present, in the South as in the North, in the East as in the West.”*

This hardening of political, economic and dogmatic antagonisms, these ideological deviations or caricatures, this fanatical politization is, in our opinion, the *second great challenge* the ICRC will have to meet in the years to come. How do we talk to those who are deafened by their own shouting, who reject all dialogue, who refuse the universality of man? What language do we use to make the voice of the victim heard when that voice represents absolute evil to the torturer, who thus justifies his act? Are there no limits to empathy? Are there not times when condemnation should be pronounced, even if the cost could be the cessation of immediate protection of the victims?

Recent experiences have shown the ICRC that a combination of firmness as regards principles and a dogged persistence at dialogue gives reason for hope: its delegates have gained access to prisoners in circumstances where objectively they should have been declared *personae non gratae*. There is no “miracle solution”, but a firm, calm, open, discreet and patient approach which, if it is used by men of quality, supported by an organization on which they can rely, has led and should lead to an at least partial answer to ideological fanaticism and sectarianism, an answer consisting of a well-understood and therefore acceptable humanitarian action. We would like to believe that this will continue to be possible.

##### **5) On the quality of the personnel and its importance for those who are neither rich nor powerful**

We could parody, “How many divisions are there in the ICRC’s army?”

What arguments does an ICRC delegate use with a Minister of the Interior to whom he has asked for access to political detainees? And, if he obtains it, how will he convince the director of a prison, thirty years his senior and on the job for twenty-five years, that improvements should be made in the detention conditions of his “clients”?

The qualities demanded of an ICRC delegate are so numerous that we cannot expect anyone to have them all:

— In the field of knowledge, apart from a sound basic education, the delegate must be thoroughly acquainted with humanitarian law and the

doctrine of the ICRC (as regards the latter, in such varied spheres as the taking of hostages, political detention, capital punishment, the emblems of the movement, the Red Cross and peace, etc.), not to mention the criteria concerning the distribution of relief, the techniques of visiting prisons, how to fill in prisoners' cards, the art of writing up pertinent notes and, naturally, a good knowledge of languages.

— As regards personality, he must, as we have seen, possess exceptional empathy, firmness, patience, perseverance, self-control, open-mindedness, intellectual curiosity, detachment, objectivity, impartiality, discernment, a sense of observation, etc., not forgetting a sense of humour... and, of course, modesty!

— Concerning availability, he must be ready to leave within twenty-four hours, be willing not to count his time and be mentally free to devote himself entirely to his mission.

The *third great challenge* of the future for the ICRC is, therefore, to know how to attract such people, train and keep them, and perhaps eventually, help them transfer to a more harmonious personal future, where family commitments or the wear and tear of field work make a change of life necessary. This implies searching "all over the place" (as quality emerges from quantity), systematic and correct individual assessments, severe and continuous selection. It implies also adequate material compensation, since although a man may well live by ideals these will pay neither the butcher nor the dry-cleaner and if one wants top quality personnel one has to pay.

The whole of the ICRC, its administration, law, principles, the Committee itself, are of no use if the people representing them in the field are not up to the situation. Just as an arrow is only meaningful when it hits its target, thereby giving meaning to the bow and the archer, so the ICRC is only fully alive through its humanitarian work, at that special moment when a doctor is treating a victim or when a delegate is opening the door of a cell and shuts himself in alone with a detainee. For this kind of mission, one cannot use any kind of man to attain the end.

#### **6) On the disadvantages of being poor when there is no one else to do the job**

The ICRC's regular budget now comes to about 50 million Swiss francs per year, with 20 million provided by the Swiss Government

and the rest by some of the other States signatories of the Geneva Conventions, the National Societies and private donations.

When the author was a regional delegate in South America, in the 1970s, he was supposed to “cover” this half-continent, from Venezuela to Chile, on his own. A coup d’état occurred in one of the countries of “his” zone; it was possible to gain easy access to perhaps 500 political detainees, who could be visited regularly. With two delegates, we could cope with the situation. Another coup d’état occurred elsewhere in the zone; like firemen leaving a small fire for a larger one, we had to run to the second place. Three months later we returned to the first country... and found that torture had meanwhile been introduced there, not yet systematically, but very frequently.

Now, in order to work effectively, with necessary assistance in the field and in Geneva, including all the expenses of the mission and its personnel, a regional delegate costs the ICRC about 200,000 Swiss francs per year.

At this rate, can you tell us the “price” of torture?

In 1981, our successor in the same job had to leave his post in South America to head the ICRC delegation in Iran. Six months later the South American post is still vacant, for lack of suitable candidates.

In 1981, the ICRC was unable to reopen its regional delegations in Lome and New Delhi, which it had closed for financial reasons five years earlier. The ICRC would now be authorized to visit political detainees in at least a dozen countries, but cannot do so, for lack of men and resources. What makes this situation so dramatic is that no one else can help those whom the ICRC has had to abandon. Of course, Amnesty International helps... but from the outside. No other organization systematically visits detainees in their place of detention.

Mention must also be made of the enormous dissemination campaign that should be carried out to prepare the ground throughout the world, so that the ICRC’s humanitarian work be favourably received... if the time comes. To this we should add the cost of persuading States to really fulfil their obligation—to which they have pledged themselves—to teach the law of war to their armed forces.

And this is the *fourth great challenge* of the future for the ICRC: to find the means for a humanitarian policy equal to actual needs and to its tasks, in conformity with its Statutes and the Geneva Conventions:

- to protect and assist the victims of armed conflicts and political detainees,
- to disseminate the knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross,

- to contribute to the development of National Societies in the specific fields of the ICRC.

Such are the basic functions of the ICRC, but in order to carry them out efficiently, and even then not in an ideal manner, we should need almost twice the means, in men and money, that we have now.

We believe that the ICRC must find these means within the next twelve years or so if it wants to carry out successfully what it alone can do, no more, no less.

But this growth must be planned and directed wisely, for delegates cannot be trained hastily and care must be taken not to lose the spirit of the organization by forcing the growth. Furthermore: if, during the process, it should be felt that the spirit was becoming lost, the expansion should be halted, so as not to let any more of the previous substance escape, as nothing would be worse than a large ICRC, full of . . . emptiness.

#### **7) On the necessity to contribute to peace—and on the difficulty of doing so without entering the political arena**

The ICRC, by virtue of its tradition and the Statutes of the International Red Cross, is the guardian of the principles of the Red Cross.

Whoever has lived through an International Conference (taking part in which, it may be recalled, are governments parties to the Geneva Conventions, recognized National Societies, their federation, the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC), will easily understand the importance of this meeting and the need for it. For those who have not had this experience, it will be sufficient if they read attentively the first four fundamental principles of the Red Cross to be able to imagine how difficult the task is:

*HUMANITY: The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours—in its international and national capacity—to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.*

*IMPARTIALITY: It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours only to relieve suffering, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.*

NEUTRALITY: *In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.*

INDEPENDENCE: *The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their Governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.*

We may add to this reminder article 2, paragraph 5, of the Statutes of the International Red Cross, which states that the International Conference “may not deal with political matters nor serve as a forum for political debate”, and the extent of the problem will be understood.

And yet, in spite of East-West tensions, in spite of North-South controversies, in spite of the declarations of certain governments or National Societies, the broad outline of these principles has been respected. And if this has been so, it is not only because the ICRC has devoted itself to this with unflagging single-mindedness, but also because it has been helped by the great majority in the Red Cross movement and by many governments. Had it failed, that would have been the end of the Red Cross, for if political gangrene attacked this body, still basically healthy, it would drain it of its substance or oblige it to accept amputation, i.e. to put an end to its universality—its basic strength.

\* \* \*

In defending the fundamental principles, there is a domain in which the ICRC's task is as difficult as it is essential, and that is the contribution of the Red Cross movement to the promotion of peace in the world. And this is the *fifth great challenge* of the future for the ICRC.

There are basically two trends of thought within the movement on this matter.

One of these believes that for the Red Cross to be up to date it must take an active interest in all the major problems of our time and try to contribute to their solution. The other fears that if the Red Cross follows this line of action, it will become enmeshed in political tangles and its humanitarian work will be paralyzed.

In our opinion, between these two schools of thought lie many non-issues, frequent misunderstandings and accusations of malicious intent. All these arise perhaps from problems of terminology; we have indeed seen that the mere use of the word “peace” occasions the same reaction

of distrust among some interlocutors as the use of "human rights" among others... usually not the same interlocutors !

Furthermore, people—depending on personal or national circumstances—have each their priority concerns: one thinks he has good cause to fear his country may be attacked by another, a second is afraid more particularly of an imbalance of nuclear and traditional forces, a third is deeply seared in his soul by the torture to which his comrades have been subjected, and a fourth considers racial discrimination as an affront to his personal dignity.

"And that's how", some people will tell us, "the Red Cross is led down step by step to take a political stand and its action is bogged down." "But," others will retort, "how do you expect the Red Cross to be credible—and thus effective—if, in this day and age, it takes no account of these basic problems?"

To clarify these conceptual differences we must revert to the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. We have seen that the principle of neutrality states that: "In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature."

This does not mean, however, that the Red Cross is unconcerned by problems of excessive armament, torture, aggression or racial discrimination but rather emphasizes that it must show an interest without siding with one government or another so as to "continue to enjoy the confidence of all".

\* \* \*

It should be mentioned that these basic concepts were fully appreciated in the Programme of Action for Peace, since it is emphasized therein that no condemnations pronounced by the Red Cross or its members may refer to a specific situation. On the other hand it was agreed that the Red Cross might make a general condemnation of certain evils. Nevertheless, condemnation must clearly be used wisely and cautiously, even if it only refers to general evils.

Indeed, the principal aim of the Red Cross is to give aid and not to blame. Is the task of maintaining peace throughout the world not that of the United Nations? Is it by condemnation that the Red Cross will make its most useful contribution to peace or is it in dealing with conflict victims, natural disasters or under-development? Above all, could it do both for long? If it were to become involved in activities

outside its particular field of work, would it not run the risk of gradually losing its effectiveness and possibilities of action in areas where it is the only operative body?

Having said this, it cannot be denied that the Red Cross, by its very existence, its universality, its open-minded attitude to all trends, the limits it has set itself, the international fraternity and solidarity it embodies, the alleviation of suffering it brings about in the very heart of warfare and the lessening of tension which is a consequence of its humanitarian work, contributes to the spirit of peace in the world. And we must not just simply be aware of it, but aim at this target consciously and systematically.

\* \* \*

The problem of the "Red Cross and Peace" includes a particularly difficult specific question, the attitude of the Red Cross to excessive world armament; if the Red Cross' field of possible action as regards peace is limited, it is even more so as regards disarmament.

In his inaugural address to the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference, in Manila, in 1981 (published in the January-February 1982 issue of the *International Review of the Red Cross*), the ICRC President summarized this problem as follows:

*"Since the beginning of its history, the ICRC has believed that Red Cross work for the victims of conflicts goes further than the immediate aim of alleviating suffering: it is also to make a contribution towards peace. The first step toward lasting peace is disarmament, and the ICRC considers that the Red Cross movement cannot hold itself aloof from the humanitarian problems raised by the armaments race."*

The ICRC President acknowledged that it is not enough to state one's deep distress in the face of such a predicament, but that if the ICRC and the Red Cross have not been able to do more, it is because two major obstacles block the way. Firstly, he noted that the Red Cross does not have the highly qualified technical experts whose opinions would enable it to intervene validly in the debates on disarmament. Secondly, to be effective, Red Cross intervention would have to go beyond the stage of general exhortations and propose practical procedures able to bring about disarmament. In doing this, however, it would enter the political field and would thus deviate from its fundamental principles and, even more serious, it would run the risk of shattering its unity, the



backbone of its strength. "How could the Red Cross pay such a price, and then, perhaps, get nothing for it?" the President asked.

This being considered, we can but simply refuse to be the passive witnesses of the monstrous armament race in the world, he said. Every avenue should be explored to find a way for the Red Cross movement to take a more active part in the cause of disarmament while still remaining true to its principles, and it would be unpardonable if it were to fail solely because of lack of will and imagination. Even if we were forced to conclude that the Red Cross must be limited to exhorting the States to put an end to their mad armament race, the movement must continue to do at least this.

*"The ICRC is ready and is open", the President concluded, "to any request that the Powers might make, if they can agree together that we could contribute, no matter how modestly, to genuine progress in disarmament."*

\* \* \*

We might add to this that the Red Cross movement is aware that the general problem of disarmament includes the more specific problem of weapons of mass destruction, be they chemical, bacteriological or atomic. In fact, humanitarian law, whose very nature and history are intimately linked with those of the Red Cross, is based on the distinction between combatants and non-combatants; yet, the characteristic of any weapon of mass destruction is that it is incapable of making this distinction. As early as 1918, the ICRC had raised its voice against the use of poisonous gas, which could not be directed against a specific target and whose effects were indiscriminate. In the same spirit, it supported the efforts which brought about the adoption of the 1925 Protocol on gases. On 5 September 1945, less than a month after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it publicly voiced its alarm and, in 1948, it induced the Seventeenth International Red Cross Conference to entreat States to ban "non-directed weapons which cannot be aimed with precision or which devastate large areas indiscriminately" and "the use, for the purposes of war, of atomic energy or any other similar force".

The evolution of matters since 1948 has certainly not relieved the anxiety of the ICRC in any way but, more than ever, it must make sure that its interventions are likely to contribute effectively to peace and will not be used for political ends.

This challenge, therefore, is extremely difficult: on the one hand, we must always bear in mind that the fundamental nature of the Red Cross

is, above all, to alleviate the sufferings caused by conflicts and, on the other, we must not forget that there exists a dynamics of peace to which the Red Cross can and must contribute decisively and actively.

**8) A non-exhaustive inventory of some of the remaining problems to be solved**

The problems which the future holds for the ICRC are still, of course, numerous and it is obviously arbitrary to restrict them to five “challenges”. Some of these problems may perhaps never arise (at least let us hope so), yet it would be better to have studied them thoroughly lest they take us unawares. We are thinking in particular of the ICRC’s role in a possible world conflict, a nuclear conflagration or “merely” an isolated act of nuclear terrorism. Other questions, which have not been mentioned, make up the daily routine of the ICRC, such as the crumbling of power or anarchy experienced by some of its interlocutors, or the new forms taken by the world’s refugee problem.

The ICRC must also continue to reflect on the international humanitarian law of the future, which should not become like certain generals . . . always one war behind. We must think today of the law which will protect the victims of tomorrow, but remember that, in this matter, the ICRC proposes . . . and the States dispose.

Finally, in thinking of the future of the ICRC, there is another question we should ask ourselves, that of its field of action. Until now, the ICRC has drawn its strength, not only from the victims in whose name it speaks and from the principles which underpin its work, but also from the limits which it has set to its range of activities and preoccupations.

Until now, for example, it is *because* it has not requested the release of political detainees that it has been able to improve their conditions of detention; it is *because* it has refused to condemn the aggressor that it has been able to visit prisoners of war; it is *because* it has abstained from taking sides in political controversies that it has been able to extol a spirit of peace credibly; it is *because* it has waited until all parties requested it to intervene that it has sometimes been able to be of service in the taking of hostages; it is *because* it has not given its opinion on the political status of opposing forces that it has been accepted by “rebels” and likewise the “legal” power; it is *because* it has not published its reports of visits to prisons that it has been able to continue making these visits.

Must we conclude that it is because it will know how to limit its choice of those it assists and protects that it will be able to continue doing

so validly? Or rather should it envisage abandoning its specific role of neutral and independent intermediary, and even act in situations other than conflicts; which first gave it its reason for being: international conflicts, civil wars, internal disorders and tensions?

At present, even in these situations, it only endeavours to protect victims when no other organization can do so better; if others can act more effectively, it withdraws, unless its presence is necessary to carry out some other action which it alone could accomplish. Should it revise this policy?

As we have said, even within these limits, the ICRC does not have the means to undertake all the tasks which it alone can do. We therefore believe that, at this stage, it should first try and acquire the means to accomplish more fully the tasks which are universally recognized as its special function before contemplating new activities which might be challenged.

We do not wish to close the door on a different future and should the international community request the ICRC to extend its work further, or even should its own conscience require this, it might have to reconsider its role; but today, as far as the eye can see, we believe that it should not depart from the role assigned to it by history and law.

**Jacques Moreillon**  
*Member of the ICRC Directorate*  
*Director for General Affairs*

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## HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROTOCOL II <sup>1</sup>

by Sylvie Junod

Human rights, particularly civil and political, have influenced the latest developments in international humanitarian law, especially 1977 Protocol II relating to non-international armed conflicts. At the Teheran Conference in 1968 the United Nations began to reconcile these two branches of international law; it was at this Conference that international humanitarian law was first called "human rights in periods of armed conflict". This rapprochement was helped further by the adoption in the 1977 Protocols of some basic rules identical to those in the Human Rights Conventions; it helps strengthen the protection of human beings in situations of armed conflict.

The second sentence of the Preamble to Protocol II establishes a link with human rights by "recalling that international instruments relating to human rights offer a basic protection to the human person." This is a very important position in view of the function of a preamble which is to provide pointers for the interpretation of a treaty. This is the first time that an instrument of international humanitarian law specifically mentions human rights. This does not mean, however, that there were no links between the two branches of international law before that. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 undoubtedly had some influence on the 1949 negotiators; several draft preambles to the Conventions made direct references to this Declaration but were not adopted.<sup>2</sup> Since no agreement on a preamble was reached, the 1949 Conventions do not have one.

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<sup>1</sup> Lecture given at the Round Table of the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in 1981. The opinions expressed are those of the author.

<sup>2</sup> See Acts of the 1949 Conference, Vol. II A, pp. 761-766, Vol. III (Appendices), pp. 96-100.

Professor D. Schindler <sup>3</sup> was among those who stressed certain similarities between the Geneva Conventions and human rights but, as he pointed out, they were not the result of a concerted legal technique. In addition, the two most important Human Rights Conventions which implemented the Declaration, i.e. the two United Nations Covenants, one on civil and political rights and the other on economic, social and cultural rights, were adopted much later, in 1966.

There is a correlation between human rights and the objectives of the United Nations Charter which prohibits recourse to force and hence aims at maintaining peace. Their role in this respect has been clearly identified by the Secretary-General of the United Nations who, in his report on the observance of human rights in periods of armed conflict, submitted to the General Assembly of 1969, stated that there was a close link "between the disgusting attitude of a government towards its own nationals and the aggression it perpetrates against other nations and consequently between the observance of human rights and the maintaining of peace".<sup>4</sup> Thus a link can be established between the observance of human rights and the right which prohibits recourse to force, i.e. the *ius ad bellum*. International humanitarian law on the other hand has of course no function in this context, since it is intended to apply when the norms of the *ius ad bellum* have failed to prevent war taking place. Its aim is to limit the use of force without looking into the causes of the conflict and by basing itself on humanitarian considerations. I merely wish to indicate here the different viewpoints of human rights and international humanitarian law without entering into the legal technicalities.

The Universal Declaration does not make any specific reference to the observance of human rights in periods of armed conflict. What is more, since the major objective of the United Nations is to maintain peace, the International Law Commission decided right from the start in 1949 not to deal with the law of armed conflicts.

The United Nations Conference on Human Rights mentioned above, which was held in Teheran in 1968 to celebrate the Universal Declaration's 20 years of existence, is a milestone in the rapprochement of human rights and international humanitarian law. By adopting a resolution relating "to the observance of human rights in periods of armed conflict",<sup>5</sup> which encouraged the setting up of new standards and

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<sup>3</sup> "The ICRC and human rights" in *International Review of the Red Cross*, January-February 1979.

<sup>4</sup> Report A 7720, 1969.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution XIII, 12 May 1968.

called for better application of existing law, the Conference presented humanitarian law as an extension of human rights and thus put it on a par with United Nations concerns. Since then the Secretary-General's reports and the General Assembly resolutions have provided an impetus to the development of international humanitarian law. In fact, one can consider that the protection of the victims of armed conflicts is closely linked to human rights: the aim is to reinforce the protection of human beings who are particularly threatened in exceptional circumstances.

Nonetheless, human rights and international humanitarian law are two distinct legal systems, with their respective objectives, their fields of application and their own workings.

Human rights set out to ensure that each individual's rights and freedoms are respected, whether they be civil, political, economic, social or cultural, and to defend the exercise of these rights against the excesses of State institutions. They aim to protect the individual and to create living conditions which encourage his or her development within a community; this is why, although human rights instruments are applicable in all circumstances, both in peacetime and in armed conflict, they can only fully attain their objectives in peacetime. This is all the more true in that their rules and regulations provide for derogations in emergency situations such as, in particular, armed conflicts, where international humanitarian law is applied. In these situations, the only requirement is the observance of the essential norms of protection; as we shall see, these norms are akin to international humanitarian law. This law, on the other hand, has been specially conceived for armed conflicts with a view to ensuring at least a minimum of protection to the victims of these situations and to limiting violence by setting a number of rules to be observed in the conduct of hostilities.

To this end it contains its own norms providing, for example, for the protection of the wounded and sick, the protection of medical transport and the safeguarding of the enemy who is *hors de combat*.

Despite their own particularities, humanitarian law and human rights do have certain major points in common which are clearly seen in the rules of non-international armed conflicts. First of all, they use similar legal techniques; and secondly their fields of application partially overlap. As we shall see, the overlapping area is made up of minimum rules for the protection of human beings which are valid in all circumstances, both in peacetime and in armed conflict.

In the same way as the human rights covenants and conventions, Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Protocol II relating

to non-international armed conflicts make inroads into the domain of States since they govern relations with some of their own nationals.

It proved to be indispensable to take into account existing rules concerning human rights, in particular the Covenant on civil and political rights, when drawing up Protocol II, with a view to ensuring that these new rules of international protection, which put limits on internal legal systems, would be consistent with earlier rules.

Before analysing this overlapping area of Protocol II and civil and political rights, I should like to give an outline of the legal technique on which both Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions and Protocol II are based, as it also provides a basis for rapprochement with the instruments of human rights.

## **1. Legal technique**

The 1949 Conventions and the instruments relating to human rights, both universal and regional, adopt different legal techniques. On the one hand, the Conventions establish categories of protected persons such as the wounded and sick, the shipwrecked or the prisoners of war; on the other hand, human rights are applied to all individuals without conferring on them a particular status. However, recently humanitarian law has begun to resemble the legal system of human rights in seeking to protect all people who are not taking part in hostilities albeit without providing for specific categories. The only way in which it differs in this respect from the universal approach of human rights is that it concentrates on persons affected by armed conflict.

This method had already been adopted in Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions; it was then retained and confirmed in Protocol II. There is a similar development in Protocol I, which, while conserving the categories of persons provided for by the Conventions, provides fundamental guarantees of treatment for all those to whom the Protocol is applicable and who do not benefit from more favourable treatment.<sup>6</sup> The wording of these basic guarantees is modelled on the Covenant on civil and political rights.

Moreover, human rights draw up norms directly applicable to individuals. Here again, the rules of internal conflicts show a certain similarity. The rights they confer are not dependent on contracts between

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<sup>6</sup> Article 75 of Protocol I.

parties to the conflict but are laid down in Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and from Protocol II. Thus, *de facto* they are individual rights similar to those granted by the instruments of human rights.

## **2. The overlapping area**

As we have already pointed out, the objectives of human rights can only be fully attained in peacetime. When a State is confronted with problems of security or public order, it is admitted that certain rights may be suspended: the right of association is one example. These limitations can come about when, in the words of the Covenant on civil and political rights, a “public danger... threatens the life of the nation”,<sup>7</sup> that is to say in periods of serious tension or armed conflict. In this case the protection of the individual is more or less adapted to possibilities and circumstances; this does not mean, however, that he is deprived of all protection. There exist a certain number of inalienable rights to which there is no exception: these are the fundamental guarantees of human treatment which have as their main aim the preservation of the physical and mental well-being of each individual. This is the absolute minimum necessary for human beings and without which they would simply cease to exist, physically, mentally and legally speaking.

This kernel of inalienable rights on which human rights are based also constitutes the minimum protection which Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Protocol II set out to guarantee, and this kernel represents the “overlapping area” common to two legal systems.

This kernel of rights makes up the minimum protection to which any individual is entitled at any time. Since Protocol II has its own field of application, it was important for these fundamental guarantees to be included after having been adapted and supplemented according to the circumstances to which that Protocol applies. Consequently, when drafting it, the ICRC drew on the rules of the Covenant, in particular when drafting Part II relating to Humane Treatment.

During discussions at the Diplomatic Conference, a number of delegates referred systematically to the corresponding rules of the Covenant on civil and political rights which they wished to insert into Protocol II by using them, somehow or other, as a basis for discussion. This reflected the concern to include in the Protocol guarantees at least equivalent to

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<sup>7</sup> Art. 4, par. 1 of the Covenant on civil and political rights.



those provided by the instruments of human rights, in order to secure the Protocol from disparagement for lagging behind.

Such concern was not shared by everyone; some people did not see the need to align the rules of two independent legal systems having different objectives. Despite this controversy, those who supported the "harmonization" of the rules of Protocol II with the rules of human rights concerning humane treatment greatly affected the results of the debates: some of the norms of the Covenant have been directly inserted into the Protocol and others begot some clauses of the Protocol.

In his writings, Mr. Jean Pictet educed three main principles common to human rights and humanitarian law: 1) non-discrimination, 2) inviolability, 3) personal safety. The rules of Protocol II which are based on these three principles are on the lines of the Covenant on civil and political rights. Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions already implied what Protocol II explicitly mentions and supplements by drawing on the rules of human rights.

### *Non-discrimination*

Equality of treatment which is based on non-discrimination is one of the fundamental principles both of human rights and of international humanitarian law. Protocol II states this in Article 2, using the same wording as Article 2 of the Covenant on civil and political rights. This identical phrasing is a way of avoiding a restrictive or divergent interpretation of a fundamental principle of protection.

### *Inviolability*

The principle of the inviolability of human beings is based on respect for their life and their physical and mental well-being. However, according to the instruments of human rights, the right to life is not an absolute right; it is limited by public law, in particular by criminal law. As things stand at present, for example, capital punishment for persons who have benefited from legal guarantees is not prohibited.

Given the circumstances in which it applies, humanitarian law cannot claim to establish a general guarantee of respect for life. Article 4 of Protocol II does provide for the respect for the life and the mental and physical well-being of people who do not take part or who are no longer taking part in hostilities and who should be treated humanely. It establishes then the inviolability of non-combatants and of combatants placed *hors de combat*. The principle of humane treatment is illustrated,

as in Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, by a series of prohibitions taken up by the inalienable rules of the Covenant, such as the prohibition of torture, inhumane or degrading sentences or treatment (Art. 4, par. 2 a) and the prohibition of slavery and the slave trade in all its forms (Art. 4, par. 2 f).

Another inalienable right concerning the principle of inviolability of human beings was reproduced in Article 5, par. 2 e, of the Protocol; it relates to detention conditions and prohibits medical or scientific experiments on people.

### *Personal safety*

The individual's safety is ensured by the granting of legal guarantees. It is here that Protocol II (Article 6, on penal prosecutions) is closest to the Covenant. First of all, Article 6 of Protocol II reaffirms the principle of legality already dealt with in Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions: each individual is entitled to be judged by a court affording all the judicial guarantees of independence and impartiality. It then goes on to establish the principle of non-retroactivity of the law by quoting in full Article 15, par. 1 of the Covenant. It stipulates also that the death sentence will not be passed on people less than 18 years old when the offence was committed and that it will not be carried out against pregnant women and mothers of young children. This age limit of 18 years is taken from the Covenant and the Conventions. The norm is modelled a step further, as the death penalty on mothers of young children is not prohibited by the Covenant. These three rules, the principle of legality, non-retroactivity and the limitation of the application of the death sentence, constitute the kernel of rights permitting of no derogation.

Article 6 of Protocol II also repeats other judicial guarantees contained in the Covenant. These are not part of the inalienable kernel of rights but are of special importance in situations of armed conflict. It was therefore all the more important to have them in Protocol II: the presumption of innocence, the right to be present at one's own trial and the principle according to which no one can be compelled to testify against him or herself (Art. 6, par. 2 d, e and f).

Of course this brief analysis is incomplete. I have restricted myself to those human rights which cannot be suspended in any circumstance and which figure in Protocol II, and to the rules which drew their inspiration from the Covenant during the negotiations. It might also be of interest to compare Protocol II with the inalienable rights contained

in such regional instruments as the European and the Inter-American Human Rights Conventions, the latter being more far-reaching as it is more recent. This comparison should be dealt with in another exposé. During the discussions at the Diplomatic Conference, the Covenant on civil and political rights was invoked as a universal instrument of human rights.

Protocol II contains almost all of the inalienable rights of the Covenant. This kernel of rights, reaffirmed by humanitarian law, is given the force of law in the constitutions of the majority of States. These rights, as basic provisions of universal application, are often considered as suprapositive rights, claimable from States, even in default of any treaty obligation or other form of commitment on their part.

These rights can be assumed to be part of *ius cogens*. For some of them such an opinion might be contested; but not, for example, where the prohibition of slavery and torture is concerned. Let it be said in passing that Article 53 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties defines *ius cogens* as “a norm accepted and recognized by the international community of States as a whole norm from which no derogation is permitted and which can only be modified by a subsequent norm of general international law having the same character”.

It proved to be indispensable for Protocol II, which has its own field of application, to confirm and supplement them in keeping with the specific situations to which it applies.

In one of his courses at The Hague, Professor Karel Vasak said that internal conflict was the most dangerous period for human rights, since it was then that humanitarian law and human rights looked like two crutches on which the individual could lean in order to escape the consequences of the conflict.

In fact, Protocol II and the instruments of human rights can be applied cumulatively and simultaneously. As the United Nations General Assembly stated, human rights remain fully applicable in cases of armed conflict (AG 2657, XXV). The possibility to superimpose reinforces the protection of human beings.

In addition, by re-employing some of the terminology used for the basic rules of protection common to human rights, Protocol II helps to reinforce and safeguard the consistency of the rules of protection. Despite this, it is a treaty independent of the rules and regulations of human rights, which do not affect its application. The concordance of the norms of protection laid down in these instruments, which remain quite distinct, meets the needs of protected persons.

In conclusion, it can be said that humanitarian law is often better accepted than human rights since it does not give rise to ideological problems. Publicity is important for the promotion of human rights but inevitably it entails a certain amount of politicization of the problems and may even provoke a certain reticence concerning human rights from States which are the subject of international criticism. Humanitarian law does not have this problem. Consequently, comparison of human rights with international humanitarian law is now often part of the programmes for the dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law, in order to show not only the interrelationship between these two branches of international law, as we have done today, but also their differences. An examination of the differences and similarities helps to make humanitarian law more acceptable and promotes a better understanding of the nature of human rights.

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*Legal Adviser at the ICRC*

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## **SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL SOCIETY FIELD STAFF**

*The following document, which was drawn up by the ICRC Relief Division, was presented and discussed at the "Regional Disaster Preparedness Workshop" held in Maseru, Lesotho, from 16 to 21 May 1983. The International Review considers that it merits the attention of all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.*

### **I. PREAMBLE**

Present-day warfare, which in many instances has become indiscriminate in the methods and means used (for example: indiscriminate bombing, mines, booby traps) increases the risks run by relief workers in carrying out their mission. The following recommendations, which correspond largely with the ICRC's internal safety instructions, are intended to draw the attention of National Society personnel to some simple, practical safety measures that can contribute to the reduction of risks connected with relief work in the field in times of conflict. The list is not exhaustive and may of course vary from instance to instance.

### **II. PERSONAL FACTORS**

In addition to the observance of practical measures, it is clear that the relief worker's safety depends also on his attitude when confronted with situations involving danger.

This attitude is primarily a part of his personality, but can also be related to a possible weakening of his stamina as a result of circumstances.

## 1. Personality

Maturity, self-control, the capacity to evaluate a situation in the heat of the moment, an ability to assess the danger, and determination are some of the qualities which are required of a good relief worker.

The recruitment process does not always allow for an in-depth evaluation of such qualities, and the relief worker himself must make, in all honesty, his own assessment in this respect.

There is no reason to be ashamed of giving up; on the contrary, the reasonableness of those who have done so, feeling that they did not have—or did not yet have—the qualities required, has always been appreciated. For lack of experience, however, the attitude one will have in the face of danger is not always known to the individual himself, and it may happen that, in the course of a mission, one may discover that one is absolutely not « made for the job ». Here again, *true courage lies in knowing when to give up.*

## 2. Weakening of endurance

Different factors can undermine the most secure personality. Among those that particularly come to mind are stress, fatigue—the medical and psychological syndrome of “war fatigue” (apathy, indifference to danger, automatic behaviour) is well known—the excessive consumption of alcohol or medicaments, strained relations within the team, a feeling of powerlessness vis-à-vis the enormity of the task. Relief workers should always be aware of this. *It is essential for them, in the long term, to keep in good physical condition, even at the expense, sometimes, of tasks which appear to be urgent.* It is clear that there are periods during which the workload is heavier than at others, and this must be taken into account, but it is absolutely essential to try to spare some time for relaxation, which will allow for the “recharging of batteries”.

## 3. Fear

Apart from what has been said above, *fear*, the natural reaction to danger, is a normal feeling which should be admitted, both in oneself and in others. It can even play a positive role of regulator, or protective mechanism (signalling “danger”). What should be avoided is the excess which leads either to panic or to temerity.

— *Panic* is the result of uncontrolled fear: it can be contagious and lead to mishap. It is therefore necessary *in all circumstances to endeavour to give at least an appearance of calm and confidence*, which,

by easing the tension, often makes it possible to overcome the most dangerous situations.

- *The majority of accidents, however, arise from the absence of fear, from recklessness.* In all circumstances, therefore, the relief worker should seek to control his impulses; not, for example, to leap unthinkingly to the rescue of victims falling near him, but to evaluate the situation calmly. *To be wounded himself is not the best way for a relief worker to assist a wounded individual.*

#### 4. Other factors

The relief worker should also be on his guard against such feelings as fatalism, a presentiment of death, or, at the other extreme, a sensation of euphoria, or a feeling of invulnerability. It is essential, in such cases, for him to express his feelings, to confide in his superiors or colleagues; there is no shame in this. *Thus, frank and open discussion must in all circumstances be the rule within a relief team.*

### III. INFORMATION

The first pillar of safety is information. Everything depends on its quality (abundance and reliability). It is therefore essential that it be gathered, synthesized and transmitted rapidly and completely at every level. Decisions concerning safety can only be taken on the basis of a very good knowledge of events. The relief worker will endeavour to keep his superiors and colleagues fully informed about the situation and the development to be expected in his area. Headquarters, through the team leader, will provide the relief worker with more general information concerning points relevant to safety. Furthermore, all authorities concerned should be fully informed of where, when and how the relief action takes place. In addition to this, dissemination of Red Cross and general humanitarian principles should be made at all levels and at all times.

### IV. ACTION PRINCIPLES

1. No action should be undertaken within a territory against the will of the authorities.
2. No action should be undertaken without taking every precaution to ensure the safety of the participants.

3. In principle, the Red Cross/Red Crescent will neither request nor accept a military escort.
4. In principle, all Red Cross/Red Crescent vehicles involved in the field should be clearly marked with the corresponding emblem. No armed persons, whether military or civilian, should be allowed to be aboard such vehicles.
5. In no case should Red Cross/Red Crescent personnel be armed.

#### **6. Assigning others to a dangerous mission**

- The danger to which any other person is exposed must not be greater than that to which it would be acceptable to submit oneself.
- The person who takes a risk must only do so in full knowledge of the facts.
- No pressure must be brought to bear on anyone to carry out a dangerous mission.

### **V. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **1. Wearing of emblem**

In general, on mission, the relief worker will be identified, in the course of his work, by means of a distinctive emblem.

According to the circumstances, the emblem may be a badge, an armband, a tabard with emblem on back and front, a helmet with emblem on back and front, a flag—or a combination of any of these.

#### **2. Documents**

The relief worker should always be able to identify himself as a member of the National Society. In addition to this, he/she should be in possession of the necessary laissez-passer and other documents established and/or required by the authorities.

#### **3. Field missions**

- Before undertaking a difficult mission, the itinerary to be followed should be fixed and the details left in writing at the base; in case of repeated missions, a regular time-table is a safety factor.
- During a mission, the established itinerary should always be adhered to.



- At the end of each mission, the actual return should be made known to the base.

#### **4. Photographic equipment, recorders**

Use of these is not recommended, as it may jeopardize a relief worker's safety, a team's safety or even a whole relief operation.

#### **5. Activity at night**

Relief action should not take place in the field at night, except by special decision of those in charge.

#### **6. Evacuation plan**

An evacuation plan, both individual (in case of accident or illness) and collective (in case of military action) should be drawn up and made known to all personnel in every team where an emergency evacuation might be necessary.

#### **7. Other safety measures**

##### **Marking of vehicles**

As already stated above (4.4), in principle, all Red Cross/Red Crescent vehicles involved in the field should be clearly marked with the corresponding emblem.

With regard to the marking of vehicles, it must not be forgotten that the most important factor is its visibility; the protective sign of the red cross on a white ground must be as large as possible, visible from all directions (particularly from the back!) and illuminated if necessary.

##### **Additional recommendations regarding vehicles**

Two vehicles is the minimum requirement for any undertaking in danger zones.

The number of persons per convoy in danger zones shall, as a rule, be restricted to a strict minimum.

The vehicles shall always be parked in the direction of departure during missions in the field.

If the vehicles are equipped with radios, a liaison check shall be made at the time of each departure and each arrival; other checks shall be carried out en route whenever possible.

### **Recommendations related to the danger of mines**

Experience has clearly demonstrated that passive protection measures for vehicles (armour-plating) are *not advisable*. Relief workers should therefore not be assigned to missions into areas where any presence of mines is suspected.

## **VI. RECOMMENDATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE LOCAL SITUATION**

It is essential for all relief workers to be well acquainted with the general situation so that all the laws in force in the country, whether written or unwritten, are respected. Special attention must be paid to the following:

### **1. Curfew**

It should be strictly observed and the instructions of the civil or military authorities followed.

### **2. Check-points and barriers**

As a general rule, stop at these points.

No objection should ever be raised to identity-checking or to control of vehicle or luggage, including brief-case.

### **3. Cease-fire and truce**

Orders and time-tables in force should be scrupulously respected.

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **Appointment to the Executive Board**

Following the decision of the ICRC Assembly, Mr. Maurice Aubert is taking part in the meetings of the ICRC Executive Board as from September 1983.

Mr. Maurice Aubert has been a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross since February 1979.

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## **The President of Tanzania at the ICRC**

During a short stay in Geneva, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Julius K. Nyerere, visited, on 3 October, the International Committee of the Red Cross. He was welcomed by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and senior ICRC officials and during the meeting the Tanzanian president discussed various humanitarian matters.

President Nyerere was accompanied by the Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations in Geneva, Mr. Chagula, and Tanzania's Ambassador to Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Diria.

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## **Recognition of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zimbabwe**

CIRCULAR No. 526

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the pleasure of informing you of the official recognition of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zimbabwe by the International

Committee of the Red Cross. This recognition, which took effect on 7 September 1983, brings to 131 the number of National Society members of the International Red Cross.

The Society, which has been active since 1931, officially applied for recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 20 April 1983. In support of its application it forwarded several documents, including a report on its activities, the text of its statutes and a copy of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society Act, 1981, which recognizes it as the only Red Cross Society in the country and as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities. These documents, which we examined in conjunction with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, show that the ten conditions for the recognition of a new National Society have been fulfilled.

The International Committee has maintained a delegation in Zimbabwe for several years and the League is also represented. The representatives of the two institutions have ascertained that the Zimbabwe Red Cross, which extends its activities to the whole country, has a solid structure and good operational capacity. The Society engages in numerous activities: training, teaching and instruction, first aid, primary medical care, recruitment of blood-donors, preparation for natural disasters. The Society also actively supports the government in its programme to help the disabled and provides medical services where necessary.

The Republic of Zimbabwe acceded on 7 March 1983 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949; in accordance with the final provisions of the Conventions, the Republic of Zimbabwe became a Party to them six months after the date on which the instruments of accession were deposited, that is to say, on 7 September 1983.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross is presided over by Mr. Byron Hove. The seat of the Society is in Harare. The address is as follows: The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 1406, Harare, Zimbabwe.

The International Committee of the Red Cross takes pleasure in welcoming the Zimbabwe Red Cross into the International Red Cross, accrediting and commending it, by the present circular, to all the National Societies. It extends its best wishes to the Society for the future and the pursuit of its humanitarian activities.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS

*Alexandre HAY*  
*President*

*Geneva, 7 September 1983.*

## *EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES*

*July-August 1983*

### **Africa**

#### **Mission by the President of the ICRC**

Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, and Mr. Jean-Marc Bornet, delegate general for Africa, visited Ethiopia and Somalia. They discussed ICRC activities with the authorities and representatives of the National Societies in both countries.

In *Ethiopia* (9-12 August) Mr. Hay met, among others, Mr. Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Patron of the Ethiopian Red Cross, Mr. Goshu Wolde, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Major Dawit Woldegiorgis, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, and Dr. Dawit Zewdie, President of the National Red Cross Society.

In *Somalia* (12-16 August) the representatives of the ICRC were received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Siad Barre, and had talks with Mr. Samantar, Minister of Defence, with General Ismail, Commander of the "Custodial Corps", and with senior officials of the Somali Red Crescent.

The President of the ICRC and the delegate general for Africa received a very warm welcome in both Ethiopia and Somalia.

### **Southern Africa**

The annual series of visits to detention centres in southern Africa was initiated with a visit to the Robben Island prison on 29 August, and went on for three weeks. The visits were made by a team of four ICRC delegates, one of whom was a doctor.

Two delegates based in Pretoria went on a mission to Transkei at the beginning of August to assess the situation of the refugees from Lesotho. Limited assistance consisting essentially of blankets (necessary because of the cold season) was provided.

**Namibia/South West Africa**

On 18 and 19 August, the ICRC delegates visited 14 Angolan prisoners of war and 132 other detainees, 36 of whom were women.

On 16 August, seven Angolan nationals, who had been held in Namibia, were set free at the Angolan border.

**Angola**

Because of the dangerous conditions prevailing, ICRC activities for the benefit of displaced persons in the Planalto region were substantially slowed down during July and August. Nevertheless, 116 tonnes of relief goods were distributed at Huambo, Katchiungo and Kuito.

The ICRC medical team continued its activities in the south of the country, working from the sub-delegation at N'Giva. In August the team treated 1078 patients and supplied medicaments to several medical posts in Kunene province.

**Zimbabwe**

In response to a request from the Bulawayo diocese Catholic Commission of Social Service and Development, the ICRC made a special grant of 35,000 Swiss francs for the provision of food (special enriched foodstuffs, milk, etc.) to more than 2,000 children suffering from malnutrition. Similar assistance, to a value of 60,000 Swiss francs, was granted to the Commission in April 1983.

**Uganda**

The Ugandan authorities granted the ICRC permission to carry out a mission to assess the medical and food situation in the regions north of Kampala. Between 5 and 26 August, a team of five ICRC delegates (including a doctor and a dietician) travelled through the districts of Luwero, Mubende, Mpigi and Mukono. The delegates visited 18 localities with a population of about 55,000 inhabitants, in order to study the needs of the persons displaced as a result of events.

The ICRC will report the mission's findings to the Uganda authorities and discuss with them the arrangements for action it might undertake in aid of displaced persons.

**Somalia**

On 5 June and 22 and 28 July, ICRC delegates again visited 206 Ethiopian prisoners of war and one Cuban prisoner of war in three

places of detention. During these visits, the delegates distributed some food and medicaments.

On 11 August, the General Director of the Somali Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the head of the ICRC delegation signed an agreement on the opening of an ICRC delegation in Mogadishu.

## **Chad**

Following the renewed fighting between the forces of the Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) and the Chad National Armed Forces (FANT), the ICRC, with the agreement of all parties, strengthened its staff in Chad by sending teams to Abéché and Faya.

A surgical team, comprising a surgeon, an anesthetist and a nurse (the latter two seconded to the ICRC by the Norwegian and Belgian Red Cross Societies), left Geneva on 11 July for N'Djamena, en route for Abéché, which it reached three days later. It stayed there until the end of July, tending the wounded (civilians, soldiers and prisoners of war) and performing 58 surgical operations. Members of *Médecins sans frontière* at Abéché co-operated with the ICRC team.

On 20 July an ICRC doctor-delegate and two other delegates from Geneva reached Faya. They were joined six days later by a medical team provided by the Red Cross Societies of Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, together with another two delegates from Geneva. The delegation worked under arduous conditions for three weeks: the surgical staff carried out 84 operations on injured civilians, soldiers and prisoners, most of whom have since been gradually removed to N'Djamena by the FANT, which, on 7 August, evacuated the whole team to N'Djamena.

Since then the ICRC has made overtures both in Geneva and in Chad with a view to providing protection and assistance, and in particular to gain access to the prisoners of war taken by both sides. Mr. Michel Convers, Head of the Operations Department was in N'Djamena from 22 to 25 August for further discussions with the Chad authorities on the ICRC's duties during armed conflicts, and on the belligerents' obligation relating to the protection of all categories of persons not or no longer taking part in the fighting, civilians and wounded belonging to the adverse party and prisoners of war.

## **Zaire**

In July, the ICRC delegates based in Kinshasa visited several times three places of detention; in August they again visited the same places

of detention. In the course of these visits they provided nearly 800 kgs of medicaments and hygiene articles.

In connection with the National Society's development, the ICRC organized a training seminar for lecturers in the Zaire Red Cross. In addition, nine other talks on the Red Cross were given to various sections of the public, totalling about a thousand listeners.

Furthermore, the delegates carried out missions in August to *Congo*, *Gabon* and the *Central African Republic* in order to renew contact with the authorities and to assess the possibilities of action, mainly for the dissemination of knowledge of the Red Cross principles and the fundamental rules of humanitarian law.

### **Lome regional delegation**

Mr. Jean-Claude Rochat, ICRC regional delegate for West Africa, carried out a number of missions in July and August to countries within the regional delegation's territory.

In *Cape Verde* he visited the Mindelo prison in which there was a detainee of interest to the ICRC. He also delivered a lecture on the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols to a group of army and police officers and NCOs.

In *Gambia* he conferred with officials of the National Red Cross Society on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

Mr. Rochat went also to *Guinea-Bissau* and *Senegal* to make contact and keep informed.

## **Latin America**

### **El Salvador**

In July, ICRC delegates received the authorization of the Salvadorean Government to resume their activities in the north of the departments of Morazan and La Union, where precarious security conditions had previously hindered their movements. They carried out missions to evaluate medical needs in these sectors and to organize further distributions of relief supplies.

During the month of July, approximately 170 tons of foodstuffs were distributed in thirteen villages to about 23,000 displaced persons. In August, the number of recipients increased considerably to 43,000 persons in 22 villages.



The two ICRC mobile medical teams, one based in San Salvador and the other in San Miguel, visited about 60 villages and treated almost 15,000 patients.

Visits were regularly carried out, both in the capital and in the provinces, to the temporary and permanent detention centres under the authority of the armed forces, the security forces and the Ministry of Justice. During 303 visits made according to the customary ICRC criteria, the ICRC delegates saw and registered 208 new detainees.

Finally, the Central Tracing Agency's local offices registered 460 tracing requests for persons presumed missing or detained.

### **Chile**

A new series of visits to places of detention in Chile took place from 11 July to 1 August, during which ICRC delegates saw 169 persons detained for reasons of security. These persons, 58 of whom were seen for the first time, were being held in 25 places of detention in the central and southern sectors of the country. The previous complete series of visits to detainees had taken place in November 1982.

### **Colombia**

In Colombia, two ICRC delegates started a new series of visits to places of detention on 11 July, scheduled to continue until the beginning of September. After having visited the three prisons in the capital, the delegates went to the provinces. The visits were interrupted for a few days so that one of the delegates could participate in a seminar on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, organized by the Colombian Red Cross in Cali from 4 to 6 August for a group of relief workers and members of the press.

### **Paraguay**

From 15 to 20 August, two ICRC delegates based in Buenos Aires, one of them a medical delegate, carried out a mission to Paraguay, where they visited four places of detention and saw 49 detainees. The delegates also purchased some medicaments and instruments for minor surgery, which they delivered to the physician responsible for the prison institutions.

## **Asia**

### **Kampuchea**

The ICRC delegation in Phnom Penh, in co-operation with the relief organizations working in Kampuchea (World Vision, Church World Service, Oxfam, UNICEF), has taken steps to stop an epidemic of dengue hemorrhagic fever, which mainly affected children and which caused a 20% death rate among young patients in July. Rapid and effective action helped to improve the situation (the death rate fell to 8% in August), but treatment and preventive measures are being continued.

The ICRC has also continued its assistance programme for five orphanages in the provinces of Prey Veng, Kandal and Pursat, and relief supplies (mats, blankets, cooking utensils, etc.), purchased locally or shipped from Bangkok, are being distributed.

Furthermore, eight flights between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh, organized by the ICRC during the months of July and August, airlifted 4.5 tons of relief supplies, worth approximately 38,000 Swiss francs; this does not include the material supplies for UNICEF and the medical teams of the Swedish, Swiss and French Red Cross Societies working in Kampuchea.

### **Thailand**

Despite the relative calm brought about by the rainy season, the situation remained tense along the Thai-Khmer border during the months of July and August. The wounded continued to be evacuated to the ICRC hospitals at Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng, where 9 doctors and 13 nurses made available by various National Red Cross Societies continued to tend patients and perform surgery (during the same two months, 431 patients were admitted and 781 small operations on others were performed). Furthermore, the ICRC mobile medical team continued its activities in the dispensaries of Nong Pru and Taprik, south of Aranya-prathet, where it treated 1,074 and 1,757 patients respectively.

Relief supplies (medicaments, medical and para-medical supplies, foodstuffs) worth 285,000 Swiss francs were distributed in Khao-I-Dang and Kab Cherng, and in the border camps.

During the month of August, approximately 10,000 Khmer civilians arriving from Prey Chan were resettled at a new site called Dongrek,

bringing the number of Khmer refugees living in that camp to 14,000. The ICRC delegates are keeping the state of health of the people there under close observation and regularly evaluate needs, especially medical needs.

For its part, the tracing office attached to the delegation at Bangkok set up two branch offices near the border, one at Dongrek, the other at Ban Sangae, to facilitate the reception and distribution of family messages. In July and August, it transmitted 1,403 letters between Khmer refugees and their families settled abroad. It also registered 488 requests for information and arranged several transfers of refugees from one camp to another with a view to reuniting families.

### **Viet Nam**

On 18 August, the ICRC organized a repatriation flight for 141 persons, who flew to Taiwan via Bangkok. Since 14 September 1976, the ICRC has repatriated a total of 5,034 persons living in Viet Nam and without consular representation there.

### **Indonesia/East Timor**

In July, the ICRC suspended its activities on the main island of East Timor, following the refusal of the Indonesian authorities to allow its delegates access to all the localities in need of assistance. The ICRC has specified, however, that it is willing to resume its humanitarian programmes as soon as it is authorized to work according to its established procedure. For its part, the Indonesian Government has indicated that the restrictions placed on the movements of ICRC delegates were only a temporary measure.

However, the ICRC, in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross, is continuing its assistance programme on the island of Atauro, off the coast of East Timor, where a total of about 4,000 persons have been displaced since 1980. This programme consists in the distribution of foodstuffs (mainly maize, beans, butter oil and salt) and emergency medical assistance for people suffering from malnutrition and prone to endemic diseases. An ICRC nurse-nutritionist regularly visits the island and organizes distributions of foodstuffs.

The ICRC is also continuing its programme of repatriation and family reuniting for people living on East Timor. In July and August it organized the transfer of 24 persons to Australia and of 33 persons to Portugal.

## **Pakistan**

In July, the ICRC opened a sub-delegation in Quetta, the capital of the Pakistan province of Baluchistan, and set up in that city a surgical hospital for the treatment of Afghans wounded in the war. The hospital has been operational since 15 July; on 18 July, the medical team made available to the ICRC by the Italian Red Cross performed its first surgical operation. By the end of August, 65 war casualties had been admitted and 66 surgical operations and 221 medical consultations had been carried out. The hospital also has a laboratory (opened on 17 August) and a blood bank (19 August). Furthermore, the ICRC, in collaboration with the local branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, is finalizing arrangements for the formation of two mobile aid teams, one of which will be based at Chaman, the other in the district of Zhob.

In July and August, 21 Afghan war casualties were admitted to the ICRC hospital in Peshawar, and 344 operations were performed by the two surgical teams. One is made up of ICRC personnel, and the other was made available to the ICRC by the National Red Cross Societies of the Scandinavian countries, of the Federal Republic of Germany and of New Zealand. The paraplegic centre continued to treat the disabled (50 patients in July and 49 in August), and the prosthetic workshop produced some 80 artificial limbs for war invalids.

The first-aid courses organized by the ICRC for Afghan refugees were continued; in August, several students finished a special two-week course, bringing to 276 the number of qualified first-aid workers trained by the ICRC since the courses began.

## **Sri Lanka**

Following the intercommunity disturbances that broke out in Sri Lanka towards the end of July, two ICRC delegates went to Colombo to offer the ICRC's services to assist and protect the victims of the events. At the same time, the ICRC flew in emergency relief supplies of food and medicaments worth about 100,000 Swiss francs in three flights between 29 July and 3 August.

The Sri Lanka authorities, however, declined the ICRC's offer of services to protect and assist the wounded and the persons displaced or arrested as a result of events. The ICRC declared that it regretted this decision, which it hopes is temporary, and asked its delegates to return to Geneva.

## **Middle East**

### **Conflict between Iraq and Iran**

After its appeal in May 1983 to the States signatories of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC continued its activities in these two countries, attempting to carry out the mandate entrusted to it by the international community.

Thus, to the extent that they were permitted to do so, the ICRC delegations in Baghdad and Tehran continued, in July and August, to bring assistance and protection to the victims of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

### **Iraq**

In July, the ICRC delegation in Baghdad carried out a series of visits to prisoners of war interned in five camps and three hospitals.

A new procedure was adopted by which visits would in future take place at the beginning of the month. The next series of visits has therefore been scheduled for September.

Also during July, ICRC delegates had access to the Iranian civilian population displaced in Iraq. Two assessment missions were carried out in accordance with the customary criteria: the first to Kurds interned in the camp of Al Tash, not far from Ramadi, the second to Khuzistanis in villages in the south, near Basra.

### **Iran**

The ICRC delegates recommenced visits to prisoners of war on 27 June. Since that date, the delegation in Tehran has visited 6 camps, namely Takhti, Qasr-Firozeh, Karaj I, Karaj II, Mehrabad and Bandar-e-Anzali. The two latter visits had to be broken off because of the hostile attitude of some of the prisoners towards the delegates. As the protection work of the ICRC could not be done satisfactorily, visits were suspended indefinitely on 27 July.

### **Lebanon**

During the months of July and August, the general situation in Lebanon remained extremely tense: armed clashes and outbursts of violence continued without interruption in the different regions of the country.

During the same two months, the ICRC delegation in Lebanon continued its protection and assistance activities. At the beginning of July, the delegation comprised 68 persons, delegates and medical personnel, plus 102 local employees. Furthermore, several hundred volunteers from the Lebanese Red Cross constantly co-operate with and assist the delegation in its work.

In July and August, the delegation was particularly active in the field of medical assistance, caring for the victims of the war and transporting them to hospitals, in three regions: Beirut and the mountainous Shouf region south of the capital, Tripoli in the north, the Bekaa valley. For example, approximately 30 casualties were evacuated from the Shouf to hospitals in Beirut following violent fighting. Another example: from 16 July to 4 August the surgical team made available by the Canadian and Belgian Red Cross Societies performed 19 operations in the governmental hospital at Baalbek; on 7 August alone, following the explosion of a booby-trapped car, it performed 3 surgical operations and treated 15 other wounded persons.

At the same time, ICRC delegates visited hospitals and dispensaries and replenished stocks of medicaments and medical equipment. Material for radiological examinations, for example, sent by the Italian Red Cross, was handed over to the hospital at Bhamdoun, while the hospitals in Alep received general medical equipment.

The orthopaedic centres at Sidon and Beit Chebab continued their programmes for the disabled. Fifty persons at Beit Chebab and 71 at Sidon received artificial limbs during the first half of the year.

A medical assessment mission was carried out by a delegate and a doctor who had come from Geneva especially for that purpose. They visited Tripoli and the Bekaa valley where they met the personnel and the representatives of the Lebanese Red Cross to assess with them medical needs at the time and over the next few months.

The danger to the Palestinian population in the camps around Sidon continued to be of great concern to the ICRC delegation. The delegates visited these camps daily, as they did the camps at Tyre, where the situation is calmer.

The delegates continued their regular visits to the some 5,000 prisoners being held at Insar camp. During these visits, the delegates delivered family messages for the prisoners, and collected family messages written by the prisoners. They also distributed sports and leisure items, such as 2,600 books for study or pleasure. From 18 July to 15 August, 283 prisoners were released, 78 of whom were repatriated under ICRC

auspices. Furthermore, the delegates contacted several embassies with a view to finding countries willing to accept other released detainees.

As it has done before, the ICRC delegation visited persons detained by the armed forces involved: on three occasions it visited 21 prisoners held by the Israeli forces at Nabatiyeh; it also visited 179 security detainees in Beirut (parcels and family messages and toilet articles were given to them), 6 Israeli prisoners of war being held by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and to whom it delivered books, parcels and family messages, 3 Israeli prisoners of war being held by the Syrian armed forces and 293 Syrian prisoners of war being held in Israel. On 26 July, a sick Syrian prisoner was repatriated from the camp at Atlit under ICRC auspices.

The Tracing Agency attached to the ICRC delegation continued its activities. From 15 July to 15 August, for example, it handled over 50,000 family messages either for or from the prisoners at Insar camp alone. During the first half of 1983, a total of about 350,000 messages were exchanged between the prisoners at Insar and their families. During that same period, the Agency drew up 1,659 certificates of captivity for the prisoners or their families, which allows the families to receive benefits. Furthermore, the Agency traced 1,409 missing persons and informed the families who were looking for them; it also transmitted some 2,000 family messages from Lebanon to other countries.

At the end of July, the ICRC appealed to the donors who usually support its activities for a further 13 million Swiss francs to continue its protection and assistance activities until the end of 1983.

### **Israel and occupied territories**

The ICRC delegation continued its protection and assistance activities in the atmosphere of extreme tension that prevailed in July and August.

During the whole month of July, assassinations, curfews, the dismissal of municipal authorities, interventions by the army, demonstrations by students and the general population, with deaths and injuries, and a general strike took place in rapid succession from Hebron to Nablus.

The delegates travelled to Hebron on several occasions in July in the hope that their presence would ease the tension. They visited the local prison on 11 July. They negotiated with the army the suspension of the curfew to allow supplies to reach the town. They toured the entire region frequently. On 1 August they visited the military prison at Far'a. Calm was restored at the beginning of August.

We wish to mention also that, in June, the ICRC delegates visited the prison at Gaza after two detainees were killed by one of their fellow detainees.

Also in June, two persons of Jordanian and Iraqi nationality were transferred to Jordan via the Allenby Bridge through the intermediary of the ICRC.

### **Yemen Arab Republic**

The ICRC regional delegate for the Arabian Peninsula, Mr. G. B. Bacchetta, carried out a mission to the Yemen Arab Republic from 16 to 27 July. He met with the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Health, the plenipotentiary Minister in charge of the consular section in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with representatives of the North Yemen Red Crescent.

The first purpose of the mission was to visit the security detainees at the central prison in Sana'a. The first complete visit to these detainees had taken place in November 1982, as reported in our January-February 1983 issue. From 16 to 17 July, the ICRC regional delegate saw and registered 111 security detainees according to normal ICRC procedure. However, since some of the detainees were not visited, this second visit cannot be considered completed.

The second purpose of the mission was to assess, with a view to a possible assistance programme, the situation of the persons displaced in the southern border area of the country following internal disturbances. As arms had been laid down, the authorities in Sana'a will assist the population in the south; the ICRC will therefore not be called upon to do so.

## **Europe**

### **Poland**

The ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies have appealed for 5,086,000 francs to finance their humanitarian programmes in Poland during the latter half of 1983. These programmes are essentially for the provision of assistance to hospitals and dispensaries and medicaments to the Polish Red Cross "SOS" pharmacy. During the previous budget period, from 1 November 1982 to 30 June 1983, the cost of the assistance programmes for the benefit of the victims of events in Poland amounted to 12,402,907 francs.

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### **Inaugural ceremony of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues**

The inaugural ceremony of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues took place on Tuesday, 5 July, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, under the chairmanship of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and in the presence of numerous guests, including the United Nations Secretary-General. The Red Cross was represented by Mr. Pestalozzi, Vice-President of the ICRC, members of the ICRC administration and of the League Secretariat.

This Commission was created in response to the proposal by Crown Prince Hassan ben Talal of Jordan for a "New International Humanitarian Order", and following a regional seminar organized jointly by the ICRC and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in Amman, in April 1981, on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

The members of the Commission include some twenty-five persons of high repute in political, legal and academic circles, all committed to the humanitarian cause. They come from all parts of the world: Oceania, Europe and Africa, the Americas, the Near East and Asia. Among them, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General Emeritus of the League of Red Cross Societies, will be well-known to our readers.

A few days after the inaugural ceremony, the Commission met in the premises of the Henry Dunant Institute to define its goals and working methods. It elected two co-chairmen, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and Prince Hassan of Jordan; it planned to meet two to three times a year for a period of three years, after which it would probably be dissolved; the subjects it chooses to study will be entrusted to experts who will report back to the Commission. The first subjects proposed are: Desertification; Persons without protection; Application of humanitarian rules in time of armed conflict.

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*The inaugural ceremony opened with a short speech by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan:*

"We are assembled here today to inaugurate the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. In my capacity as convenor, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you all most warmly to this ceremony.

It is gratifying to see so many eminent persons from all parts of the world... Their presence is an eloquent manifestation of a shared concern for the increasingly vulnerable and exposed position of the individual in contemporary society.

At a time when most discussions are centered around politics and economics, military strategies and ideological postures, it is surely significant that we should get together to discuss humanitarian issues...

We are thankful to the Government of Switzerland for its generous offer of assistance in the establishment of the Secretariat of the Commission. The choice of Geneva as the seat of this Commission is in keeping with the well-established tradition of this city, which already serves as headquarters of so many international humanitarian agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.

Although the inaugural ceremony is taking place in this chamber of the United Nations, I wish to stress that the Independent Commission will be functioning outside the framework of the United Nations. It would, however, seek to benefit from the experience already gained by its relevant agencies. We sincerely hope that our work will further strengthen their efforts...

The actual meeting of the Commission will take place tomorrow at the Henry Dunant Institute. It is a befitting tribute to a great man and a noble endeavour which the movement of the Red Cross represents."

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*Mr. Raymond Probst, Secretary of State for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, spoke to the assembly on behalf of Switzerland, host country of the Independent Commission.*

"It is my honour to welcome, on behalf of the Government of Switzerland, the members of this esteemed assembly, which has met here today to inaugurate the work of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues...

I believe I am correct in stating that never before has there been a gathering of such eminent personalities, with such high responsibilities and great experience in humanitarian, political, legal or scientific fields,

to discuss humanitarian issues. My country is pleased to host such a distinguished assembly, and will observe its progress with the utmost interest. It is happy to have been able to facilitate the Commission's work by assisting with the practical arrangements, in accordance with its tradition of hospitality and its humanitarian vocation.

The choice of Geneva for the Secretariat of the Commission and for its meetings most certainly reflects the Members' desire for their analyses of humanitarian problems to be carried out near to most of the international bodies working to aid those in distress around the world. . . It is also in Geneva, as we know, that the instruments of international law relative to the protection of victims of armed conflicts have been adopted since 1864, and it is my wish that, when the Commission reviews the instruments of international law currently in force in the humanitarian field, it may emphatically reiterate the obligatory character of the rules they set forth. This is desirable not only for the standards of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, but also for the rules concerning the status of refugees and human rights.

The Commission today sets out to accomplish a noble but hard and vast task. Switzerland looks forward to any contribution you can make to solving the humanitarian problems of our times."

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*The Assembly then listened to the words of Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations :*

"It gives me great satisfaction to speak today on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of this Commission. . . I do not need to emphasize to you the enormity of the humanitarian problems facing the international community. Millions of human beings are condemned to a life of poverty and scorn, their basic needs unsatisfied, their fundamental rights denied. . . Such serious problems must be tackled with an open mind and determined action.

There are, of course, a large number of organizations, programmes and projects which aim to deal with some of these problems, nationally and internationally. However, in spite of these efforts, praiseworthy though they are, and in spite of some constructive reaction on the part of the international community, we cannot remain indifferent to continued and inhumane suffering and poverty. It is this aspect, this dimension of our activities, which we must always bear in mind; indeed, the very dignity of the human being is at issue. . .

The United Nations, as we all know, has the historic mission of proclaiming and encouraging the practical application of universally-recognized standards of human rights. It has also drawn up standards relative to the rights of refugees; it has created bodies to intervene in case of natural or man-made disasters... Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the UN has undertaken an action for peace of inestimable value which, because it directly affects the stability of our planet, is also of an essentially humanitarian nature.

Nor can we forget the activities of other governmental and non-governmental organisations, which also tackle humanitarian issues and without which the world would be in an even more tragic state. I refer here in particular to the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to its efforts to apply international humanitarian law...

I have no doubt that your debate will focus first and foremost on the means of ensuring universal economic development, for it is clear that underdevelopment is the primary cause of human suffering in the world today. The notions of equality, of equity and of social justice, on a national or international scale, are closely linked to those of development. Universal respect for human rights standards as defined by the United Nations, the extension and application of humanitarian rules in armed conflicts and the measures that can be taken by the community of nations to satisfy other pressing needs in the humanitarian field are some of the problems requiring immediate attention...

Allow me, therefore, to express the fervent wish that your work will be successful. Its nature is such that not only will it supplement the work of the United Nations, but it will also help the community of nations to build the better world it has aspired to for such a long time."

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*Finally, Prince Hassan of Jordan, originator of the Independent Commission, explained how he thought of suggesting that a new international humanitarian order be created, and how the Commission, by concentration on issues not dealt with by any other body and where humanitarian gaps still exist, could contribute to the edification of this new international humanitarian order.*

"It is a matter of deep personal satisfaction to me that we should be meeting here today to inaugurate the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. Its origin is to be found in a proposal I made to the United Nations General Assembly suggesting that member States should endeavour collectively to promote a new inter-

national humanitarian order... The General Assembly Resolution relating to the order was adopted by consensus. The Assembly adopted, again by consensus, a second resolution which mentioned the proposal relating to the establishment of an Independent Commission...

Some time ago we had an ICRC Conference in Amman. On that occasion, a few of us thought that efforts should be made to develop a universal code of conduct. Discussions at that time helped me crystallize my own thinking regarding the dire need to promote a comprehensive humanitarian framework which covers more adequately the existing gaps in international humanitarian law and practice and deals with issues which are not sufficiently addressed. This may be a challenging and possibly quite frustrating task but it needs to be undertaken. The work of our Commission may hopefully be the beginning of such an undertaking by the international community.

The greatest advantage of the Commission lies in its independence. Its deliberations need not suffer from constraints which usually characterize discussions between governments... We are, of course, conscious of the fact that concrete results and tangible actions are more important than speeches and reports. However, action which is not preceded by careful thought can be more dangerous than no action at all... We see the task of our Commission limited in time and scope. It must address specific, pre-determined areas of humanitarian concern which call for greater attention and care.

We recognize the value of the efforts of international humanitarian agencies, both governmental and non-governmental... I have also witnessed the work of non-governmental organizations such as the International Red Cross, as well as philanthropic bodies and voluntary agencies. I wish to pay tribute to the selfless service they render to millions of people around the globe.

The fact is nonetheless that despite all these noble efforts, the problems these agencies face remain undiminished... The quality of life has steadily degenerated over the past decades. Human rights have, by and large, remained a peripheral issue. Problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, uprootedness have not received as much attention as they deserve. The individual human being, the ultimate recipient of all progress, has seen very little come his way in most parts of the world. The overall picture remains grim: we are not adequately prepared for the next century or even the next decade...

We fully realize that the establishment of the Commission may not in itself be a miraculous panacea. However, even if it represents nothing more than a "cry of anguish" by a deeply concerned group of individuals,

it is worthwhile, for it may increase the awareness of the grave problems our children are going to inherit. In the final analysis, the question to which the Commission may have to seek an answer is this: In the contemporary economic, social and political environment, is it possible for human beings to be more humane?"

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### **Round Table on "Population Movements"**

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in San Remo, organized a round table on "Population Movements", which was held in Florence (Italy), from 14 to 18 June 1983.

Over 130 people gathered in Florence, all specialists of various backgrounds: ministers and high-ranking officials from several States, representatives from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, experts and in particular university professors. They came from all parts of the world. The Red Cross was also well represented, in particular by members of the Italian Red Cross, the League and the ICRC.

Population movements are currently of considerable concern to the international community. Attention of course is focused on movements, above all involuntary or forced displacements, that present problems. The Institute and in particular its President, Professor Patrignone, wanted to see these problems examined as a whole, giving equal attention to movements in time of peace—for example, migrant workers—and in time of tension or conflict—refugees and displaced persons—and wished each question to be studied from the point of view both of the individual and of the States.

The President summarized the lively and constructive debates in a series of "Final Remarks", the main points of which are as follows:

— Voluntary migratory movements in conditions of peace and security are beneficial to humanity.

— In involuntary migrations, people move to survive, and especially to flee the effects of war, internal disorder or natural disasters, to escape famine or underdevelopment, out of fear of persecution or other violations of human rights.

The legality and legitimacy of mass expulsions were again questioned, in view of the fact that in certain situations the mass expulsion of specific categories of persons is prohibited. This is true in particular in the event of armed conflicts, by virtue of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Protocols.

However, the clearest point to emerge from the debates was the recognition of the direct link between movements of people and economic and social development, underdevelopment being the principal cause of directly or indirectly involuntary movements of people.

In this context, the following practical recommendations were made:

1. No new organization seems to be called for, and the proliferation of international legal instruments should be avoided. Above all, existing working possibilities must be re-inforced and applied.

2. Non-governmental organizations play a dynamic and indispensable role, especially in the dissemination of knowledge of international standards for the protection of the individual. This role must be upheld and encouraged.

3. In many cases it would be more appropriate to find humane solutions in a regional rather than a universal context. Regional preventive measures will often be more readily understood and more effective.

4. Finally, it was suggested that a humanitarian committee be established to better co-ordinate, in the event of major and complex disasters, the international interventions of the various organizations involved.

In so far as the Red Cross is concerned, one conclusion can be immediately drawn: both to alleviate the basic problems brought about by the involuntary movements of people, and to stimulate international response, that is to say the assistance those people are in need of, all the components of the Red Cross can and must contribute according to their competence and their means.

*R. Kosirnik.*

## **Round Table at San Remo**

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law held its ninth Round Table and Red Cross Symposium from 7 to 10 September in San Remo. This annual meeting has become a tradition and was attended this year, as in previous years, by a large number of leading figures from the international humanitarian institutions, as well as legal experts interested in humanitarian law and the law relating to refugees, representatives of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, members of university faculties and other experts. The ICRC delegation was made up of Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, Mr. J. P. Hocké, Director for Operational Activities, Mr. J. Moreillon, Director for General Affairs, and a number of other members of the ICRC staff.

The Round Table was opened by the President of the Institute, Professor J. Patrignic, and the participants were then divided into two study groups.

Group I, under the chairmanship of Professor Frits Kalshoven of Leiden University (Netherlands), studied the relations between customary law and Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, with particular regard to Part III (Methods and means of warfare, combatant and prisoner-of-war status) and Part IV (Protection of the civilian population). The members of this group examined the often misunderstood corpus of rules of customary law. They were unanimous in their assertion that customary law is universally recognized and underlies all the subjects discussed. In their discussions, emphasis was laid on the important fact that, especially in the field of protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities, Protocol I does not, in the main, introduce any new and independent rules of law. On the contrary, it is a codification of customary law, which it expands, without detracting from various opinions on the scope of one or other of the rules of customary law.

Study group II was under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmed Abu Gura, President of the Jordanian Red Crescent and Chairman of the Standing



Commission of the International Red Cross. This group's varied programme began with a discussion on « The Red Cross and human rights », which was introduced by Mr. J. Moreillon. Mr. R. Kosirnik of the ICRC's department of Principles and Law then read a paper on « Red Cross activities to aid refugees ». This constituted an initial response to Resolution XXI of the twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference (Manila, 1981). Group II also heard a report on "Current problems encountered in the protection of refugees" by a representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

The large numbers attending the Round Table in San Remo reflect the specialists' constantly growing interest in these meetings, where not only legal questions but also matters arising from Red Cross policy in general are subjected to debate on a very high level.

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## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HANDBOOK

The ICRC and the League, in collaboration with the Henry Dunant Institute, are currently preparing the twelfth edition of the International Red Cross Handbook. The French text<sup>1</sup> was published in February 1983; the English and Spanish versions are expected for the end of this year. The handbook may subsequently be published in Arabic.

Since 1889, when it was first published, the International Red Cross Handbook has been both a compilation of the principles and rules that have directed the activities of the Red Cross since its foundation and a practical guide for those interested in the life of the Red Cross.

It contains the texts which direct the life and work of the Red Cross in peacetime, namely the statutes and rules of procedure for the organization and operation of the institutions which constitute the Red Cross movement—the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies—the Conventions and international treaties that govern the mission of the Red Cross in time of conflict and, finally, the main resolutions adopted by the statutory bodies of the Red Cross.

When originally published by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Handbook took the form of a twenty-two-page pamphlet. Increasing considerably in size with each of its many successive issues, the most recent re-editions of the Handbook date back to 1951, 1953 and 1971. It took the name *International Red Cross Handbook* in 1930, as a joint publication of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Great care has been given to the presentation of the new edition and special print has been used to make a number of important texts stand out. Attention is thus immediately drawn to:

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<sup>1</sup> *Manuel de la Croix-Rouge internationale*, Geneva, February 1983. 768 pages. Available from the ICRC, the League or the Henry Dunant Institute.

- the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross, as proclaimed by the Twentieth International Red Cross Conference at Vienna in 1965;
- the Fundamental Rules of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, which summarize in a few phrases the approximately 600 articles of this law;
- a historical review of the Red Cross, a one-page table of the most outstanding events and dates in the hundred and twenty years of its existence;
- notes on the nature and activities of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC and the League;
- a table showing the principal recognized protective signs.

The Handbook is composed of three main parts and several annexes.

The first part of the Handbook is devoted to international humanitarian law. With the exception of the “mother” Convention of 1864, the Conventions reproduced in the Handbook are the law currently in force. It is not a collection of all international conventions or agreements on the subject and does not therefore provide all existing documents for historical research. In comparison with the 1971 edition, the principal innovations are the inclusion of the text of the two 1977 Protocols and a more comprehensive section on the regulations relating to the conduct of hostilities, which have traditionally come under the law of The Hague.

The second part contains the statutes and internal regulations of the Red Cross, several of which have been revised in the past few years. This part has also been enlarged to include several new texts, in particular the Interpretation of the Agreement of 1969 between the ICRC and the League specifying certain of their respective competences in the field of relief (1974), the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief, the International Red Cross Statement of Policy on Aid to Refugees, model statutes for National Societies, the Regulations for the Maurice de Madre French Fund and the Code of Ethics for Blood Donation and Transfusion.

The third part, to which there is an index, is devoted to resolutions. To avoid excessive bulk, a very restrictive selection had to be made of the resolutions adopted by the International Red Cross Conferences, the Council of Delegates and the League General Assembly. The new edition reproduces only those which appear essential in every field of Red Cross activity and certain of the earliest ones which remain fundamental because of their historic character or the unique value which they have retained. It is intended to compile and publish, at a later date,

a separate volume containing all resolutions adopted since the inception of the Red Cross.

The annexes give only brief particulars, such as the list of International Red Cross Conferences and sessions of the League General Council and Board of Governors—now the General Assembly—, the list of Presidents of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Presidents of the League of Red Cross Societies and Chairmen of the Standing Commission, and a list of the dates on which the ICRC, the League and Henry Dunant himself were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

This work will be of invaluable service to all who need, unannotated, the documents of a legal nature on which Red Cross action is based.

J. L. Cayla

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## RECUERDO DE SOLFERINO

The book by Henry Dunant, "*Un souvenir de Solférino*", which is at the origin of the world Red Cross movement, has already often been translated. To date, there have been two Spanish translations. The first was by Rafael Dominguez, published by Editions Botas, in Mexico, in 1937; this was reprinted in Buenos Aires, in 1963, by the Argentine Red Cross, on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Red Cross. A second version, by V. Santiago, was published in Barcelona by Editions Mateu, in 1965.

These two editions have long been out of print and the need was felt among the Spanish-speaking public for a new printing of Dunant's work. An examination of the two existing Spanish translations showed that they often strayed far from the original text. The translators had not only evaded all the difficulties, but they had often simplified the original excessively (in the Barcelona version, for example, all explanatory footnotes were left out). It thus appeared necessary for there to be an entirely new translation of "*Un souvenir de Solférino*".

This new Spanish translation, by Mr. Sergio Moratíel Villa, has just been published by the ICRC, in Geneva.<sup>1</sup> It appears as one small

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<sup>1</sup> *Recuerdo de Solferino* by Henry Dunant, translated by Sergio Moratíel Villa, published by the ICRC, Geneva, December 1982.

volume with a coloured cover. In the text, there are several illustrations and a map in black and white. We shall say nothing about the new Spanish version itself. Review readers know the style and work of Mr. Moratiel Villa who translates or revises almost all the texts of the Spanish edition of our publication. We do, however, say that his translation was done with extreme care and attention to detail. Note also that Dunant's text has a preface by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, and is followed by a text entitled "The seed and the fruit" by Mr. Hans Haug, former President of the Swiss Red Cross, in which he shows the consequences and results, a hundred and twenty years after, of the publication by Henry Dunant of his "*Souvenir de Solférino*", in 1862.

We shall go so far as to say that Spanish-speaking readers of this new translation of "*Souvenir de Solférino*" have a surprise in store for them. For the first time they will read what Dunant really wrote after seeing the horrors that a battle leaves behind. May they be moved, as Dunant was, and prompted to make, with the Red Cross, new efforts to bring into being a world where we can say "We are all brothers".

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The *International Review of the Red Cross* welcomes articles on subjects relating to international humanitarian law and the Red Cross.

Such articles must, however, comply with the following rule: they must avoid all reference to current political situations or events and sterile controversies on political, religious or racial topics.

Manuscripts may be submitted in French, English, Spanish or German. They should if possible be typewritten and must not exceed 12,000 words, with a minimum of footnotes.

Authors are requested to send their contributions to the editor of the *International Review* (address on page 3 of the Review), without failing to indicate their address.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ADOPTED 21 JUNE 1973

**ART. 1. — *International Committee of the Red Cross***

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

2. It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.<sup>1</sup>

**ART. 2. — *Legal Status***

As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

**ART. 3. — *Headquarters and Emblem***

The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be *Inter arma caritas*.

**ART. 4. — *Role***

1. The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;
- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to ensure the operation of the Central Information Agencies provided for in the Geneva Conventions;
- (f) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (g) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (h) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

2. The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

**ART. 6 (first paragraph). — *Membership of the ICRC***

The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. It shall comprise fifteen to twenty-five members.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

## ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- AFGHANISTAN** (Democratic Republic) — Afghan Red Crescent, Puli Artan, *Kabul*.
- PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA** — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadave, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA** (Democratic and People's Republic) — Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA** — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, 1089 *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA** — Australian Red Cross, 206, Clarendon Street, *East Melbourne 3002*.
- AUSTRIA** — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna 4*.
- BAHAMAS** — Bahamas Red Cross Society, P.O. Box N 91, *Nassau*.
- BAHRAIN** — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH** — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, 34, Bangabandhu Avenue, *Dhaka 2*.
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN** — Red Cross of Benin, B.P. 1, *Porto Novo*.
- BELGIUM** — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, 1050 *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA** — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515, *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA** — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL** — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA** — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. Biruzov, *Sofia 27*.
- BURMA** (Socialist Republic of the Union of) — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI** — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON** — Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA** — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1H6*.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** — Central African Red Cross, B.P. 1428, *Bangui*.
- CHILE** — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago*.
- CHINA** (People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of China, 53 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking*.
- COLOMBIA** — Colombian Red Cross, Avenida 68, No. 66-31, Apartado Aéreo 11-10, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE** — Croix-Rouge Congolaise, place de la Paix, *Brazzaville*.
- COSTA RICA** — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 14, Avenida 8, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA** — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 No. 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA** — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, 118 04 *Prague 1*.
- DENMARK** — Danish Red Cross, Dag Hammarskjöld's Allé 28, Postboks 2600, 2100 København Ø.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** — Dominican Red Cross, Apartado Postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR** — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia, 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT** (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 29, El-Galaa Street, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR** — El Salvador Red Cross, 17 Av. Norte y 7a. Calle Poniente, Centro de Gobierno, *San Salvador*, Apartado Postal 2672.
- ETHIOPIA** — Ethiopian Red Cross, Rass Desta Damtew Avenue, *Addis Ababa*.
- FIJI** — Fiji Red Cross Society, 193 Rodwell Road, P.O. Box 569, *Suva*.
- FINLAND** — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 168, 00141 *Helsinki 14/15*.
- FRANCE** — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris CEDEX 08*.
- GAMBIA** — The Gambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 472, *Banjul*.
- GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaizerstrasse 2, DDR 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF** — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach 1460 (D.B.R.).
- GHANA** — Ghana Red Cross, National Headquarters, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREECE** — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA** — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3ª Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Ciudad de Guatemala*.
- GUYANA** — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI** — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS** — Honduran Red Cross, 7a Calle, 1a y 2a Avenidas, *Comayagüela, D.M.*
- HUNGARY** — Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János utca 31, *Budapest V*. Mail Add.: 1367 *Budapest 5*, Pf. 121.
- ICELAND** — Icelandic Red Cross, Nóatúni 21, 105 *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA** — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 110001*.
- INDONESIA** — Indonesian Red Cross, Jalan Abdul Muis 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN** — Iranian Red Crescent, Avenue Ostad Nejatollahi, Carrefour Ayatollah Taleghani, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ** — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND** — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY** — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST** — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA** — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN** — Japanese Red Cross, 1-3 Shiba-Daimon 1-chome, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN** — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA** — Kenya Red Cross Society, St. John's Gate, P.O. Box 40712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF** — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA, REPUBLIC OF** — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT** — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1350, *Kuwait*.
- LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON** — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO** — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA** — Libyan Arab Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 404, *Luxembourg*.
- MALAGASY REPUBLIC** — Red Cross Society of the Malagasy Republic, rue Patrice Lumumba, *Antananarivo*.
- MALAWI** — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, *Blantyre* (P.O. Box 30080, Chichiri, *Blantyre* 3).
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Crescent Society, National HQ, No. 32 Jalan Nipah off Jalan Ampang, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, *Bamako*.
- MAURITANIA** — Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, B.P. 344, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, *Nouakchott*.
- MAURITIUS** — Mauritius Red Cross, Ste Thérèse Street, *Curepipe*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *México 10 D.F.*
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tahachal, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, P.O.B. 30427, *2500 GK The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross House, 14 Hill Street, *Wellington 1*. (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*.)
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaragua Red Cross, D.N. Apartado 3279, *Managua*.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Aketa Close, off St. Gregory Rd., P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Drammensveien 20 A, *Oslo 2*, Mail add.: *Postboks 2338, Solli, Oslo 2*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters, 169, Sarwar Road, *Rawalpindi*.
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA** — Red Cross of Papua New Guinea, P.O. Box 6545, *Boroko*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, Brasil 216, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Av. Camino del Inca y Nazarenas, Urb. Las Gardenias - Surco - Apartado 1534, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, P.O. Box 280, *Manila 2803*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- QATAR** — Qatar Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 5449, *Doha*.
- ROMANIA** — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- RWANDA** — Rwanda Red Cross, B.P. 425, *Kigali*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bd Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6A Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SINGAPORE** — Singapore Red Cross Society, 15 Penang Lane, *Singapore 0923*.
- SOMALIA (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, 77, de Villiers Street), P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg 2000*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid 10*.
- SRI LANKA (Dem. Soc. Rep. of)** — Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo 7*.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWAZILAND** — Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 377, *Mbabane*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Fack, S-104 40 *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Rainmattstr. 10, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51 rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TONGA** — Tonga Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 456, *Nuku'alofa*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, Wrightson Road West, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED KINGDOM** — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, SW1X 7EJ*.
- UPPER VOLTA** — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington, D.C. 20006*.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, I. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow 117036*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF** — Red Cross of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triệu, *Hanoi*.
- YEMEN (Arab Republic)** — Yemen Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1471, *Sana'a*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE** — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, 2837 Brentwood Drive, *Lusaka*.
- ZIMBABWE** — The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 1406, *Harare*.